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[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/69/488/Add.2 and Corr.1)*]

69/183. Human rights and extreme poverty

The General Assembly,

Guided by the purposes and principles contained in the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[1] the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights[2] and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,[2] the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[3] the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[4] the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,[5] the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities[6] and all other human rights instruments adopted by the United Nations,

Recalling its resolution 47/196 of 22 December 1992, by which it declared 17 October the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, and its resolution 62/205 of 19 December 2007, by which it proclaimed the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017), as well as its resolution 67/164 of 20 December 2012 and its previous resolutions on human rights and extreme poverty, in which it reaffirmed that extreme poverty and exclusion from society constitute a violation of human dignity and that urgent national and international action is therefore required to eliminate them,

Recalling also its resolution 52/134 of 12 December 1997, in which it recognized that the enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights was essential for the effective understanding, promotion and protection of all human rights,

[1] Resolution 217 A (III).
[2] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.
[3] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.
[4] Ibid., vol. 1577, No. 27531.
[5] Ibid., vol. 660, No. 9464.
[6] Ibid., vol. 2515, No. 44910.

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Recalling further Human Rights Council resolutions 2/2 of 27 November 2006,[7] 7/27 of 28 March 2008,[8] 8/11 of 18 June 2008,[9] 12/19 of 2 October 2009,[10] 15/19 of 30 September 2010,[11] 17/13 of 17 June 2011[12] and 26/3 of 26 June 2014,[13]

Recalling Human Rights Council resolution 21/11 of 27 September 2012,[14] by which the Council adopted the guiding principles on extreme poverty and human rights[15] as a useful tool for States in the formulation and implementation of poverty reduction and eradication policies, as appropriate,

Reaffirming the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, welcoming the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, and recalling its outcome document, contained in resolution 65/1 of 22 September 2010,

Taking note of the fact that the proposal contained in the report[16] of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals shall be the main basis for integrating sustainable development goals into the post-2015 development agenda, while recognizing that other inputs will also be considered, in the intergovernmental negotiation process at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, and noting that the report includes a goal on eradicating poverty in all its forms everywhere,

Concerned that, during the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017), while there has been progress in reducing poverty, especially in some middle-income countries, such progress has been uneven and the number of people living in poverty in some countries continues to increase, with women and children constituting the majority of those most affected, especially in the least developed countries and particularly in sub-Saharan Africa,

Deeply concerned that extreme poverty persists in all countries of the world, regardless of their economic, social and cultural situation, and that its extent and its manifestations, such as social exclusion, hunger, trafficking in human beings, disease, lack of adequate shelter, illiteracy and hopelessness, are particularly severe in developing countries, while acknowledging the significant progress made in several parts of the world in combating extreme poverty,

Deeply concerned also that gender inequality, violence and discrimination exacerbate extreme poverty, disproportionally impacting women and girls,

Stressing that special attention should be given to those who are living in extreme poverty and in vulnerable situations, in particular women, children, youth, older persons, persons with disabilities and indigenous peoples,

Concerned by the challenges faced today, including those derived from the ongoing impact of the financial and economic crisis, the food crisis and ongoing

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[7] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/62/53), chap. I, sect. A.

[8] Ibid., *Sixty-third Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/63/53), chap. II, sect. A.

[9] Ibid., chap. III, sect. A.

[10] Ibid., *Sixty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 53* and corrigendum (A/65/53 and Corr.1), chap. I, sect. A.

[11] Ibid., *Supplement No. 53A* (A/65/53/Add.1), chap. II.

[12] Ibid., *Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/66/53), chap. III, sect. A.

[13] Ibid., *Sixty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/69/53), chap. V, sect. A.

[14] Ibid., *Sixty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 53A* (A/67/53/Add.1), chap. II.

[15] A/HRC/21/39.

[16] See A/68/970 and Corr.1.

concerns over food security, as well as the increasing challenges posed by climate change and the loss of biodiversity, and by the resulting increase in the number of people living in extreme poverty and their negative effect on the capacity of all States, especially developing countries, to fight extreme poverty,

Recognizing that the eradication of extreme poverty is a major challenge within the process of globalization that requires the coordination and continuation of inclusive policies through decisive national action and international cooperation,

Recognizing also that social protection systems make a critical contribution to the realization of human rights for all, in particular for those who are in vulnerable or marginalized situations and are trapped in poverty and subject to discrimination,

Recognizing further that persistent and growing inequalities within countries are a major challenge to poverty eradication, particularly affecting those who are living in extreme poverty and in vulnerable situations,

Stressing the necessity of better understanding and addressing the multidimensional causes and consequences of extreme poverty,

Reaffirming that, since the existence of widespread extreme poverty inhibits the full and effective enjoyment of all human rights and may, in some situations, constitute a threat to the right to life, its immediate alleviation and eventual eradication must remain a high priority for the international community,

Stressing that respect for all human rights, which are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated, is of crucial importance for all policies and programmes to fight extreme poverty,

Underlining the priority and urgency given by Heads of State and Government to the eradication of extreme poverty, as expressed in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields,

Reaffirming that democracy, development and the full and effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms are interdependent and mutually reinforcing and that they contribute to the eradication of extreme poverty,

1. *Reaffirms* that extreme poverty and exclusion from society constitute a violation of human dignity and that urgent national and international action is therefore required to eliminate them;

2. *Also reaffirms* that it is essential for States to foster participation by the poorest people in the decision-making process in the societies in which they live, in the promotion of human rights and in efforts to combat extreme poverty and exclusion and that it is essential for people living in and affected by poverty and in situations of vulnerability to be empowered to organize themselves and to participate in all aspects of political, economic, social and cultural life, in particular the planning and implementation of policies that affect them, thus enabling them to become genuine partners in development;

3. *Emphasizes* that extreme poverty is a major issue to be addressed by Governments, civil society, community-based social organizations and the United Nations system, including international financial institutions, and in this context reaffirms that political commitment is a prerequisite for the eradication of poverty;

4. *Also emphasizes* the need to accord due consideration and priority to poverty eradication within the United Nations development agenda, while stressing the importance of addressing the causes and challenges of poverty through integrated, coordinated and coherent strategies at the national, intergovernmental

and inter-agency levels, consistent with the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields;

5. *Reaffirms* that the existence of widespread extreme poverty inhibits the full and effective enjoyment of human rights and renders democracy and popular participation fragile;

6. *Recognizes* the need to promote respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in order to address the most pressing social needs of people living in poverty, including through the design and development of appropriate mechanisms to strengthen and consolidate democratic institutions and governance;

7. *Reaffirms* the commitments contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[17] in particular the commitments to spare no effort to fight against extreme poverty and to achieve development and poverty eradication, including the commitment to halve, by 2015, the proportion of the world's people whose income is less than one United States dollar a day and the proportion of people who suffer from hunger;

8. *Also reaffirms* the commitment made at the 2005 World Summit to eradicate poverty and promote sustained economic growth, sustainable development and global prosperity for all, including women and girls;[18]

9. *Further reaffirms* the commitment made at the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals to accelerating progress in order to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger by 2015;[19]

10. *Reaffirms* furthermore that the objective of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017) is to support, in an efficient and coordinated manner, the follow-up to the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals relating to the eradication of poverty, including the Millennium Development Goals, and to coordinate international support to that end;

11. *Acknowledges* that, in its report,[16] the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals reiterated that poverty eradication is the greatest challenge facing the world today and included the goal to end poverty in all its forms everywhere, with a specific target to eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than 1.25 dollars a day, by 2030;

12. *Recalls* that promoting universal access to social services and providing social protection floors can make an important contribution to consolidating and achieving further development gains and that social protection systems that address and reduce inequality and social exclusion are essential for protecting the gains made towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, and in this regard takes note of International Labour Organization Recommendation No. 202 on social protection floors;

13. *Encourages* States, when designing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating social protection programmes, to ensure gender mainstreaming and the promotion and protection of all human rights in accordance with their obligations under international human rights law, throughout this process;

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[17] Resolution 55/2.

[18] See resolution 60/1.

[19] See resolution 65/1.

14. *Also encourages* States to take all necessary measures to eliminate discrimination against all persons, in particular those living in poverty, to refrain from adopting any laws, regulations or practices denying or limiting the enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including economic, social and cultural rights, and to ensure that people, in particular those living in poverty, have equal access to justice;

15. *Welcomes* the ongoing efforts to strengthen and support South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation, recognizing their contributions to the efforts of developing countries to collaborate in the eradication of poverty, and stresses that South-South cooperation is not a substitute for, but rather a complement to, North-South cooperation;

16. *Encourages* the international community to strengthen its efforts to address challenges that are contributing to extreme poverty, including those derived from the ongoing impact of the financial and economic crisis, the food crisis and ongoing concerns over food security, as well as the increasing challenges posed by climate change and the loss of biodiversity in all parts of the world, especially in developing countries, by enhancing cooperation to help to build national capacities;

17. *Reaffirms* the critical role of both formal and informal education in the achievement of poverty eradication and other development goals, as envisaged in the Millennium Declaration, in particular basic education and training for eradicating illiteracy, efforts towards expanded secondary and higher education as well as vocational education and technical training, especially for girls and women, the creation of human resources and infrastructure capabilities and the empowerment of those living in poverty, reaffirms in this context the Dakar Framework for Action, adopted at the World Education Forum on 28 April 2000,[20] and recognizes the importance of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization strategy for the eradication of poverty, especially extreme poverty, in supporting the Education for All programmes as tools for achieving the Millennium Development Goal of universal primary education by 2015;

18. *Invites* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue to give high priority to the question of the relationship between extreme poverty and human rights, and also invites his Office to pursue further work in this area;

19. *Calls upon* States, United Nations bodies, in particular the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the United Nations Development Programme, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to continue to give appropriate attention to the links between human rights and extreme poverty, and encourages the private sector and international financial institutions to proceed likewise;

20. *Takes note with appreciation* of the guiding principles on extreme poverty and human rights,[15] adopted by the Human Rights Council in its resolution 21/11,[14] as a useful tool for States in the formulation and implementation of poverty reduction and eradication policies, as appropriate;

21. *Encourages* Governments, relevant United Nations bodies, funds and programmes and the specialized agencies, other intergovernmental organizations

[20] See United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Final Report of the World Education Forum, Dakar, Senegal, 26-28 April 2000* (Paris, 2000).

and national human rights institutions, as well as non-governmental organizations and non-State actors, including the private sector, to consider the guiding principles in the formulation and implementation of their policies and measures concerning persons affected by extreme poverty;

22. *Requests* the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to disseminate the guiding principles, as appropriate;

23. *Welcomes* the efforts of entities throughout the United Nations system to incorporate the Millennium Declaration and the internationally agreed development goals set out therein into their work;

24. *Also welcomes* the work undertaken by the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on extreme poverty and human rights, including her report, submitted to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session,[21] and his report, submitted to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session;[22]

25. *Decides* to consider the question further at its seventy-first session under the sub-item entitled "Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms" of the item entitled "Promotion and protection of human rights".

73rd plenary meeting
18 December 2014

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[21] A/68/293.

[22] A/69/297.